

(12) UK Patent Application (19) GB (11) 2 395 734 (13) A

(43) Date of Printing by UK Office 02.06.2004

(21) Application No: 0400554.2

(22) Date of Filing: 10.07.2002

(30) Priority Data:
(31) 01308050 (32) 13.07.2001 (33) EP

(86) International Application Data:
PCT/EP2002/007882 En 10.07.2002

(87) International Publication Data:
WO2003/006788 En 23.01.2003

(71) Applicant(s):
Shell Internationale Research Maatschappij B.V.
(Incorporated in the Netherlands)
Carel van Bylandtlaan 30, NL-2596 HR,
The Hague, Netherlands

(72) Inventor(s):
Wilhelmus Christianus Maria Lohbeck

(continued on next page)

(51) INT CL⁷:
E21B 43/10

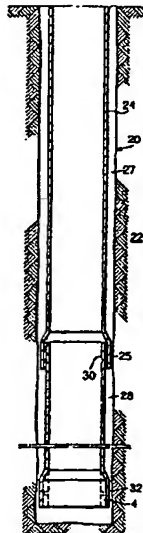
(52) UK CL (Edition W):
E1F FAC FLA

(56) Documents Cited by ISA:
US 5348095 A US 3203483 A

(58) Field of Search by ISA:
INT CL⁷ E21B
Other: EPO-Internal

(54) Abstract Title: Method of expanding a tubular element in a wellbore

(57) There is provided a method of radially expanding a tubular element extending into a wellbore, the tubular element having a first section to be expanded to a first diameter and a second section to be expanded to a second diameter, the first diameter being larger than the second diameter. The method comprises arranging an expander in the wellbore, the expander including a first expander member and a second expander member, wherein the first member has a larger outer diameter than the second member, said members being releasably interconnected. The expander is moved through the first tubular section thereby expanding the first tubular section to the first diameter, whereafter the second expander member is released from the first expander member. The second expander member is then moved through the second tubular section so as to expand the latter to the second diameter.



Original Printed on Recycled Paper

GB 2 395 734 A

GB 2395734 A continuation

(74) Agent and/or Address for Service:
Shell International Ltd
PO Box 662, Intellectual Property Services,
LONDON, SE1 7NE, United Kingdom